

Board of Supervisors Proclamation

WHEREAS; For over 50 years, Community Health Centers have provided high-quality, affordable, comprehensive primary and preventive health care in our nation's underserved communities, delivering value to, and having a significant impact on America's health care system; and

WHEREAS; As the country's largest primary care network, Health Centers are the health care home for 27 million Americans in over 10,000 communities across the nation. One in every twelve people in the United States gets their care in a community health center; and

WHEREAS; Health Centers are a critical element of the health care system, serving both rural and urban populations, and often providing the only accessible and dependable source of primary care in their communities. Nationwide, Health Centers serve one in every six residents of rural area; and

WHEREAS; Every day, Health Centers develop new approaches to integrating a wide range of services beyond primary care, including oral health, vision, behavioral health, and pharmacy services, to meet the needs and challenges of their communities; and

WHEREAS; Health Centers are governed by patient-majority boards, ensuring that the patients of each Health Center are engaged in their own health care decisions; and

WHEREAS; Health Centers serve as critical economic engines, helping to power local economies by generating over 45 billion in economic impact in some of the country's most economically deprived communities; and

WHEREAS; Health Centers nationally employ nearly 200,000 people, including physicians, nurse practitioners, behavior health specialists, physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives who work as part of a multi-disciplinary clinical teams designed to treat the whole patient; and

WHEREAS; The Health Center model continues to prove an effective means of overcoming barriers to healthcare access, including geography, income and insurance status, and in doing so, improves health care outcomes and reduces health care system costs.

WHEREAS; Health Centers reduce overall costs of care by helping manage patients' chronic conditions, which keeps them out of costlier health care settings, like hospital emergency rooms; and

WHEREAS; Health Centers are on the front lines of emerging health care crises, providing access to care for our nation's veterans, homeless communities, addressing opioid epidemic, and responding to public health threats in the wake of natural disasters; and

San Joaquin County